**Import of pharmaceutical raw material by Pak Government**

161. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Government is importing from India basic raw material for use in its pharmaceutical industry; and

(b) if so, the details of the material and the cost of the material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Exporters and importers facing administrative hardships from DGFT**

162. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exporters and importers are facing administrative hardships from DGFT;

(b) if so, the steps taken in 1996-97 to make the DGFT more transparent;

(c) whether it is a fact that harassment in the rule of the day;

(d) the reasons for not improving functioning of DGFT;

(e) whether Government will further reduce role of DGFT in the matter of licences for import; and

(f) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (f) It may not be correct to state that importers and exporters are facing administrative hardships and harassment from DGFT. There are no major complaints of this nature. However, DGFT is engaged in a continuous endeavour to make its functioning effective, efficient and transparent. Streamlining of procedural formalities to facilitate greater trade efficiency and effective integration of Indian economy with the global economy is an ongoing process. In the preceding five years, greater transparency has been imparted by aligning the Export and Import Policy with the Import Trade Control (Harmonised System) Classification, and by putting lesser number of items in the Negative List of imports. The various export promotion schemes have been progressively simplified. The operational aspects of the various schemes have been finetuned so as to alleviate any hardship to the exporters. In an attempt to make the functioning of the DGFT Office exporters friendly, and to avoid harassment, Export Facilitation Officers and Public Relation Officers have been posted in the various offices of the DGFT. There is a Grievance Redressal Committee functioning in the office of DGFT.

**Export rate and the projected growth rate**

163. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export rate growth attained during the year 1996-97 so far as against the projected growth rate;

(b) the reasons for deceleration of the exports and steps proposed to be taken to accelerate the growth;

(c) whether the confederation of Indian Industries has suggested constitution of a National Export Council; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMLRCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) (a) At the beginning of the year 1996-97, an export growth of 18 to 20% in $ terms was envisaged over the previous year. As per available DGCI&S data, export growth in $ terms during April—December, 1996 is placed at 6.36%.

(b) Export performance is influenced inter alia by international market conditions, supportive infrastructure, credit av-

ailability and policy frame work. Export promotion measures are continuously being taken by the Government, through changes in policies & procedures for providing an export friendly environment, involvement of States in export promotion and in consultation with Trade and Industry. Having regard to the performance during the year, exports would be lower than was envisaged at the beginning of the year.

(c) and (d) The Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested the formation of a National Export Council. A decision on this has not yet been taken.

**Agreement with SAFTA**

164. SHRI SANJAY DALIMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the agreement of South Asian Free Trade Area;

(b) the likely date of its coming into operation; and

(c) the level of trade undertaken among SAFTA countries during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Tariff preferences amongst SAARC members countries have been exchanged under the SAARC Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA). SAPTA has become operational with effect from 7 December, 1995. The South Asian Free Trade Area is expected to be realised by the year 2000 but not later than 2005.

(c) India's imports and exports to the SAARC countries during the last three years are as under:

**India's Exports** Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

| | Bangladesh | Sri Lanka | Pakistan | Maldives | Nepal | Bhutan | %age of World Trade Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 1349.31 (31.12) | 903.23 (25.75) | 200.96 (36.63) | 24.88 (11.87) | 307.84 (46.69) | 31.16 (395.88) | 4.03 |
| 1994-95 | 2024.13 (50.01) | 1151 (27.44) | 179.71 (−10.57) | 48.28 (94.04) | 377.03 (22.48) | 34.93 (11.76) | 4.61 |
| 1995-96 | 3469.91 (71.43) | 1335.62 (16.03) | 256.8 (42.9) | 52.52 (8,78) | 536.45 (42.28) | 47.56 (54.79) | 5.36 |

*Source: DGCIS*

**India's Imports** Rs. Crores/(%age growth)

| | Bangladesh | Sri Lanka | Pakistan | Maldives | Nepal | Bhutan | %age of World Trade Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1993-94 | 56.07 (151.14) | 62.82 (57.59) | 136.68 (−63.60) | 1.02 (259.75) | 90.68 (61.41) | 9.35 (166.24) | 0.48 |
| 1995-96 | 119.82 (113.70) | 88.12 (40.27) | 165.61 (21.17) | 0.73 (−28.87) | 114.89 (26.70) | 57.40 (513.96) | 0.60 |
| 1995-96 | 282.13 (135.5) | 145.83 (65.5) | 150.8 (−8.94) | 0.55 (−24.66) | 166.95 (45.31) | 107.2 (86.76) | 0.70 |

*Source: DGCIS*

**Import and export from SAARC countries**

165. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total import and export from SAARC countries, country-wise during the last three years;

(b) whether the trade between the